

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: AUGUST 5, 2009

DEPARTMENT: GOVERNMENT & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

DIRECTOR: TED J. OLIVAS

☐ Consent ☒ Discussion

SUBJECT:

Report and possible action regarding the status of the impacts of the 2009 Legislature on the services provided by Clark County Department of Social Services presented by Nancy McLane, Director, Clark County Department of Social Services

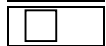
Fiscal Impact



No Impact



Augmentation Required



Budget Funds Available

Amount:

Funding Source:

Dept./Division:

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

The 2009 Legislature drafted and approved legislation which will have financial impacts to Clark County's ability to provide services through the Department of Social Services. Nancy McLane is prepared to make a presentation updating the Council on emerging issues related to the 2009 Legislative Session and the related impacts to the Clark County Department of Social Services.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive report and direct staff accordingly

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

Submitted at Meeting – Clark County Social Service Programs List and PowerPoint Presentation by Nancy McLane

Motion made by GARY REESE to Accept the report with direction to staff to follow-up with Clark County Manager Virginia Valentine

Passed For: 7; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

RICKI Y. BARLOW, LOIS TARKANIAN, STEVE WOLFSON, OSCAR B. GOODMAN, GARY REESE, STEVEN D. ROSS, STAVROS S. ANTHONY; (Against-None); (Abstain-None); (Did Not Vote-None); (Excused-None)

Minutes:

MAYOR GOODMAN and CITY MANAGER ELIZABETH FRETWELL thanked NANCY McLANE, Director of the Clark County Department of Social Services, for appearing before the Council and explaining how the City will be affected by the Clark County's actions in closing the Fertitta Center.

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Utilizing the PowerPoint presentation, MS. McLANE described the services provided to those people who are not served by anyone else. Each jurisdiction has adults that have received assistance. She indicated that Nevada is the most distressed State in the country.

MS. McLANE outlined the typical client they serve and the economic climate of 2008 versus 2009, clearly showing a rise in unemployment, decline in tax revenues and an increase in number of applicants seeking assistance. She went over the mandated and non-mandated programs and the financial and medical cost trends. Due to the legislative redirection, Social Service must cut \$9.3 million from the non-medical budget and important programs will be affected impacting vulnerable populations.

MS. McLANE stated that Social Service will provide \$71 million in funding to important State programs in Fiscal Year 2010, but there is no direct benefit to Social Service clients. She outlined the areas identified for budget cuts, including programs, staff reductions and other operational reductions. These cuts will reduce services, increase homelessness, increase medical costs, impose a strain on non-profit partners in the community and resulted in the closing of the Fertitta Center.

MS. McLANE outlined the different budget cuts underway and shared concerns with the closure of the Fertitta Center, as they do not have staff to reopen the center. They are working with non-profit partners.

MAYOR GOODMAN thanked MS. McLANE for her report, which is a sad commentary on the state of government. He directed CITY MANAGER FRETWELL to meet with her Clark County counterpart and report back to the Council. He noted the City's EVOLVE Program and asked if Clark County would need assistance from that group. MS. McLANE welcomed and appreciated any assistance.

COUNCILMAN REESE asked if the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) money is targeted for these groups. CITY MANAGER FRETWELL replied there are no new sources of funding for this category. Some funding has been enhanced and traditional social services funding goes to Clark County. MS. McLANE added that the State is receiving significant funding, which serves a different population. COUNCILMAN REESE noted that it would be a great use of stimulus funds.

In response to COUNCILMAN BARLOW's request, MS. McLANE stated she could provide the map points of affected client populations and the services they seek, such as financial assistance, burial/cremation costs, and assistance for people returning to their city of origin.

COUNCILMAN BARLOW suggested the City and County engage in joint meeting to discuss solutions. SUGAR VOGEL, Administrator of the Senior Law Project and the State Chair of Elder Abuse Task Force, noted that they have an application pending for a competitive grant.

COUNCILMAN ROSS thanked MS. McLANE for her report and remarked that this affects all of Southern Nevada.

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BENNY TSO, Tribal Chairman of the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, stated that the decisions being made by the County and City will affect this sovereign nation.

MARCIA MAHONEY, Vice Chair, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, indicated that they have been attending meetings addressing the Corridor of Hope and will take a more active role in the community. She thanked the City for allowing them to be involved and presented CITY MANAGER FRETWELL and COUNCILMAN BARLOW with plaques.

